

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1941
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5278

EXDIS

BRASILIA FOR ASST SECY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MRS CARTER), CO
SUBJECT: GOC ATTITUDE TOWARDS VISIT OF MRS CARTER

1. TOP LEVEL GOC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE VISIT
OF MRS CARTER APPEARS TO HAVE WARMED-UP DURING THE PAST
WEEK TO TEN DAYS, JUDGING FROM ARRANGEMENTS AND COURTESIES
THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ADDED TO THE ORIGINAL GOC PLANS WE
HAD BEEN GIVEN.

2. THE SUCCESSION OF CHANGES IS INTERESTING. ABOUT TEN DAYS
AGO, COLOMBIAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TORRES MADE SPECIAL POINT OF
TELLING US THAT MRS. LOPEZ WAS GOING TO GO ALL-OUT WITH RESPECT
TO THE CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION, WITH SPECIAL DECORATIONS FOR THE
PALACE, ETC. SUBSEQUENTLY, TORRES TOLD US THAT MRS. LOPEZ
HAD DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY MRS. CARTER FROM THE AIRPORT TO
THE FIRST STOP AT THE BINATIONAL CENTER. A FEW DAYS LATER
WE WERE TOLD THAT GOC MINISTERS WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO THE
RECEPTION ALONG WITH THEIR WIVES. NEXT, FOREIGN MINISTRY
INFORMED US THAT SECRETARY GENERAL BORDA (NUMBER TWO IN THE
MINISTRY) WOULD BE AT THE AIRPORT WITH HIS WIFE TO GREET
MRS. CARTER. TWO DAYS AFTER THAT WE WERE TOLD THAT FOREIGN
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05278 071532Z

MINISTER LIEVANO HIMSELF WOULD ALSO BE AT THE AIRPORT AND THAT
HE WANTED TO ACCOMPANY ASST SECY TODMAN FROM THE AIRPORT TO
THE CENTER. ABOUT THE SAME TIME, FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTIFIED
US THAT MRS. LOPEZ WANTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EMBASSY
OFFICIALS AND WIVES AT THE RECEPTION. THEN, PRESIDENT AND MRS.
LOPEZ INVITED CHARGE AND HIS WIFE TO A PRIVATE SOIREE AT THE
PALACE, WHICH IS THE FIRST TIME ANY EMBASSY OFFICER HAS BEEN

INCLUDED IN SUCH A FUNCTION IN OVER A YEAR. AT THIS POINT,
WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF PRESIDENT LOPEZ HIMSELF MAKES AN
APPEARANCE AT THE CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION.

3. THERE COULD BE A NUMBER OF EXPLANATIONS FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS.
MES. LOPEZ' GRACIOUSNESS MAY HAVE PREVAILED OVER HER HUSBAND'S
FROSTY PERSONALITY. COLOMBIANS MAY HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE
TREATMENT MRS. CARTER HAS BEEN RECEIVING AT PREVIOUS STOPS AND
NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT TOO FAR OUT OF STEP,

FINALLY STOPPED READING DEGAULLE'S MEMOIRES AND RECEIVED SOME
BETTER ADVICE ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HANDLING AMERICANS.
WHATEVER THE REASON, THE CHANGES AUGUR WELL FOR A
SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY MRS. CARTER.
DREXLER

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